



MISSOURI  
SOLID WASTE ADVISORY BOARD

PO Box 176  
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65102

PHONE 573-751-5401  
FAX 573-526-3902

The Honorable Wayne Wallingford  
200 W. Capitol Avenue, Room 225  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

January 27, 2017

Dear Senator Wallingford,

The Solid Waste Advisory Board (SWAB) is presenting you with a bill drafted by the Missouri Recycling Association (MORA) that could provide Missourians expanded opportunities to recover obsolete electronic equipment from the residential waste stream.

Currently, industries, businesses and educational institutions are prohibited from sending electronic scrap, such as computers, monitors, fax machines, and printers to a landfill for disposal. This prohibition on landfill disposal does not include electronic scrap that is thrown away by homeowners. For this reason, large amounts of obsolete electronics still enter Missouri landfills. Much of this residential electronic scrap stream comes from our rural areas, where little to no opportunity for diversion and recovery of these items exists.

This act establishes a funding mechanism to promote diversion and recovery of residential electronics and their valuable components (e.g., gold, silver and copper) and in some cases, dangerous components (e.g., lithium ion batteries and heavy metals). Funds generated by this act will be funneled through the regional solid waste management districts. The methodology and means for diversion and recovery will be left to the individual solid waste management districts, under the guidance of DNR. This approach was taken because the districts understand and know their regions best.

For the past several months, MORA has worked with municipal and industry representatives to develop a viable alternative to banning the disposal of electronics generated by homeowners. This act is much, much different than the bill initially developed four years ago.

This proposal was presented to SWAB at its January meeting. At this meeting, SWAB agreed to endorse this bill language and present it to the Joint Committee on Solid Waste Management District Operations on behalf of MORA. Both organizations ask that the committee consider this opportunity for expanded diversion and recovery.

Respectfully,

Chris Bussen, Chair  
Solid Waste Advisory Board

Angie Gehlert, Executive Director  
Missouri Recycling Association

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